

How to Use This Guide

The lessons in this guide introduce students to Census 2000 with high-interest, grade-level appropriate activities designed to meet your curricular needs. Students will learn what a census is and why it's important to them, their families, and the community.

Lesson planning at a glance

Your “Scope and Sequence” (on the inside front cover) provides an at-a-glance summary of the lessons in this book. The “Scope and Sequence” identifies skills, objectives, Commonwealth standards, and curriculum areas for each lesson. These lessons are designed to support your classroom goals, and are divided into three learning strands: *Map Literacy*, *Community Involvement*, and *Managing Data*.

Customized for your classroom

Each lesson in this guide consists of a teacher lesson plan, at least two reproducible activity pages, and one or more extension activities. Because the lessons have been designed to span a range of grades, most of the activities are stepped, allowing you to tailor your teaching to the individual needs of your students. The extension activities have been designed to enhance students' experience and understanding of the census beyond the classroom.

Before you begin

This teaching guide is based on a unifying concept: *The census makes a difference for our community*. Before you begin using the lessons, write this concept on the board. Explain that information gathered by the census helps Puerto Rico learn what Puerto Rico needs.

Using the Web site

The U.S. Census Bureau Web site (www.census.gov) is easy to use and can provide students and teachers with a variety of information on characteristics of the population of Puerto Rico. For example: Starting on the home page, click on “Estimates” under the box labeled “People.” In this category, choose “Puerto Rico Municipio,” then click on “Population Estimates.” Students can work with the data found on screen or the data can be printed out for easier use.